

world. They have signed on to destroying the American patent system as we have known it for the last 130 years.

This is truly a battle between the little guy and the big guy. H.R. 3460, the Steal American Technologies Act, is being pushed through the system by big business. Small business, the investors, the NIFB, colleges and universities that get monies from royalties from their own inventive processes, they are behind the Rohrabacher substitute for H.R. 3460.

This will be a battle that determines America's future, but the American people will have trouble understanding it. Let us hope they call their Congressman to let them know they will be watching and America's interests should be protected.

#### MSA'S PROVIDE FREE MARKET SOLUTION TO HEALTH CARE PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona [Mr. SALMON] is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, since the start of the Clinton administration, our President has taken American workers for a rollercoaster ride when it comes to fundamental health care reform. Two years ago we faced the scary plan called Clinton Health Care, which basically was a system of socialized medicine. Clinton Care completely rejected the idea that free market reforms, not big government, centralized control, might be the way to bring health care costs into line, and it would have forced people into managed care.

Americans were confronted with this ridiculously complex plan that would have even further increased our citizens' dependence on the Federal Government and ultimately left our children with debt even worse than today's already unacceptable high levels.

Today in Congress we have a plan, a good plan, for health care reform. It does not call on the Federal Government to take over anything. Instead, we propose to fix our problems in a manner that befits our free market economy by empowering Americans to have more, not less, control over their health care. Our plan will let Americans take their health care insurance with them when they change jobs, limit exclusions for preexisting conditions, and, perhaps most importantly, give Americans the option to choose medical savings accounts, MSA's. Our plan believes in giving people, not bureaucrats, the power to make personal health care choices, but this plan is held hostage, day 57.

MSA's, which is a component of our health care reform plan, provide free market solutions to our health care problems. Because of the fundamental good sense MSA's make, we have more and more Democrat converts to this economically sound reform option.

While I would prefer to give the MSA option to all Americans, I recognize

slow progress is better than no progress. Such is the nature of compromise. All in all, however, we in Congress have a solid reform plan, and I am proud of the spirit of bipartisanship that many have brought to this cause.

However, one more Democrat still has not joined us in this compromise, and that is President Clinton. His refusal to take it up has brought this reform to a halt. I call on the President in the spirit of bipartisanship, working together for Americans on crucial, crucial health care reform, for all Americans, to stop this hostage taking of the health care reform plan, come on board, and do what is right for America.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule 1, the House will stand in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WELLER) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

May Your Spirit, O God, be with us all the day long and remain with us in our hopes and in our sorrows, in our dreams and in our defeats. Cause us never to forget Your heavenly vision and let us never walk away from the gifts of Your good grace. We know, gracious God, that Your Spirit is over all the world and given to every person and is present in our lives this day and every day, we pray. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. CHABOT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

REPORT ON H.R. 3662, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1997

Mr. REGULA, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 104-625) on the bill (H.R. 3662) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1997, and for other purposes, which was referred to the Union Calendar and ordered to be printed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All points of ordered are reserved on the bill.

#### HOW LONG WILL PRESIDENT CLINTON AND SENATOR KENNEDY STAND IN THE WAY?

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, Republicans have a health care bill that ensures affordability, accessibility and ensures that preexisting conditions will not deny an individual health care coverage any longer. It makes health care more affordable to small businesses and to the self-employed and allows them to set up medical savings accounts. It allows tax deductions for long-term health care needs, and it fights fraud and abuse with tough new provisions.

Mr. Speaker there are only two people standing between the American people and more affordable and available health care, and that is President Bill Clinton and Senator TED KENNEDY, and, Mr. Speaker, how long will they stand in the way and deny the American people these much needed reforms?

#### VETERANS DESERVE MORE THAN HOLLOW PROMISES

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's veterans are getting a raw deal. Last week the Republican budget conference approved a veterans budget \$573 million below that recommended by President Clinton. Now the Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education of the Committee on Appropriations has recommended that the funding level recommended by President Clinton for veterans' employment services provided for disabled veterans outreach program specialists and local veterans employment representatives be cut by almost \$12 million. As a result, 28,000 fewer veterans; that is, 28,000 fewer veterans, will be placed in jobs than proposed in the President's budget.

Additionally, the Republicans have recommended that the transition assistance program be terminated October 1. This successful program has